

WITH DR. COATES' COMPLIMENTS.

Bleak House, Patrington,
January 1st, 1910.

To the District Council of Patrington,
I present my fourteenth annual report dealing with the health of this district for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

The population of the district is estimated at 7,021. The number of births has been 184; that is 8 more than last year. Of these 4 were illegitimate—a proportion of one in 46, compared with one in 19.5 in the previous year. The total number of males born in 1909 was 98, and the number of females 86. The birth-rate for 1909 is 26.20 per 1,000, compared with 25.06 in 1908. The average for the last ten years is 23.74. The birth-rate of the East Riding for 1908 was 23.7. The births took place as follows:—

	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.
Males	33	15	25	25
Females ..	24	20	26	16

One hundred and sixty-four children have been vaccinated out of the 184 births.

During the past year 92 persons have died, viz., 49 males and 43 females. This is at the rate of 13.10 per 1,000, compared with 13.21 in the previous year, and 14.3 the average for the past ten years. The death-rate of the East Riding for 1908 was 14.3.

The average age at death for this district is: For males 50.89 years, and for females 57.32 years. The average age of all deaths is 49 years 2 months 1 day, compared with 49 years 3 months 15 days in 1908. The average duration of life in England is 46 years 3 months.

The relative number of deaths at the various ages come out at:—

Under 1 year	10
Average per 1,000	64
Average for East Riding (1908).....	106
Average for East Riding Rural Districts (1908).....	95
Average for East Riding Urban Districts (1908).....	125
Average for 10 years (Patrington).....	110
Over 1 year and under 5 years.....	2
Over 5 years and under 15 years.....	4
Over 15 years and under 25 years.....	3
Over 25 years and under 65 years.....	25
Over 65 years	48

I append the mortality of chief European countries for contrast:—

	Annual mortality per 1,000 inhabitants.	Of 1,000 children under 1 year there die
Sweden and Norway	17	103
England	20	145
Switzerland	21	194
France	22	166
Germany	25	230
Spain and Portugal.....	26	180
Italy	26	185
Austria	27	254
Hungary	30	244
Russia	36	300
Average for all Europe.....	27	245

Ten inquests have been held in 1909—4 accidents, 1 suicide, 1 natural causes, 1 found drowned, 2 heart disease, and 1 blood poisoning. Three persons belonging to this district died in the East Riding Asylum. Three non-residents have been accidentally drowned, and one person unknown has been washed up.

The following have been the chief causes of death:—Diphtheria, 1; phthisis, 9; cancer, 6; bronchitis, 7; pneumonia, 4; alcoholism, 2; heart, 25; accidents, 4; suicide, 1; and all other causes, 33.

No deaths took place at Frodingham, Hilston, Kilnsea, Owthorne, or Tunstall. No births took place at Hilston or Ont Newton.

The deaths took place as follows:—

	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.
Males	14	10	11	14
Females ..	15	7	5	16

I append a table showing at a glance (1) the births, (2) the deaths, (3) the average death-rate, (4) the average birth-rate, and (5) the average age at death in the following parishes:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Average age at death.
Burstock	9	3	6.18	18.55	31.66
Burton Pidsea	12	7	24.64	42.25	28.71
Easington	6	3	8.45	11.69	65.33
Frodingham	3	0	0.	42.85	0.
Halsham	3	4	18.18	13.63	41.93
Hilston	0	0	0.	0.	0.
Hollym	7	3	14.28	33.33	27.97
Holmpton	3	2	11.76	17.64	46.
Keyingham	14	2	3.66	25.68	37.16
Kilnsea	6	0	0.	50.00	0.
Ottringham	10	5	10.86	21.73	76.8
Ont Newton	0	1	27.77	0.	37.
Owstock	5	1	12.5	62.5	17.
Owthorne	3	0	0.	25.	0.
Patrington	24	21	19.48	22.26	63.63
Patrington Union	0	7	133.33	0.	69.71
Paul	19	7	12.36	33.56	57.17
Rimswell	4	2	1.44	28.98	64
Roos	8	4	9.25	19.44	47.5
Ryehill	7	2	9.09	31.81	41.12
Skeffling	4	3	21.73	28.98	83
Sunk Island	11	4	10.98	30.21	55.27
Thornumbald	9	2	7.35	33.08	44.5
Tunstall	6	0	0.	58.82	0.
Waxholme	2	3	50.84	33.89	67.66
Welwick	5	4	14.28	17.85	38.77
Winstead	4	2	12.82	25.64	38.04

Compared with this, the following table shows the average for the past ten years, 1899—1908:—

	Avge. Pop.	Avge Births.	Avge Deaths.	Avge Deaths under 1 Year.
Burstock	471.9	10.6	5.6	1.2
Burton Pidsea	279.3	7.6	2.5	5
Easington	364.9	8.2	3.8	1.0
Frodingham	69.4	2.6	.5	.3
Halsham	224.2	3.1	3.0	.2
Hilston	30.1	.7	.3	0.
Hollym	228.4	5.0	3.7	.9
Holmpton	176.1	3.3	2.3	.3
Keyingham	550.6	12.4	7.9	1.8
Kilnsea	125.6	4.5	2.6	1.1
Ottringham	471.0	9.4	8.0	1.4
Ont Newton	37.4	.7	.3	0.
Owstock	81.8	3.4	.4	0.
Owthorne	88.7	2.7	1.3	.5
Patrington	1082.2	22.4	17.7	2.5
Patrington Union	45.1	1.3	6.5	0.
Paul	564.6	16.7	6.5	1.2
Rimswell	134.4	4.7	2.0	.6
Roos	445.2	9.7	7.5	.7
Ryehill	228.1	5.8	3.2	.6
Skeffling	137.4	3.5	1.5	.2
Sunk Island	381.4	9.8	3.2	.8
Thornumbald	275.6	7.6	3.9	.6
Tunstall	105.9	2.3	1.1	.2
Waxholme	61.6	.4	.8	.2
Welwick	287.4	7.3	4.7	1.3
Winstead	152.8	4.3	1.7	.1

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 1,649; the average number of people per house is 4.27. For the whole of the East Riding 4.5. The average is 61,420 for this district; the density of population is one person to 8.7 acres, compared with 7.7 the East Riding rural average and 5 acres the entire Riding average.

The infantile mortality is 10, against 16 the previous year. The average for the past ten years is 18.7. One death of an illegitimate child under one year has been recorded. These are distinct improvements on previous years.

The cancer rate is one in 15.33, as against one in 15.5 in 1908. The average for England and Wales is one in 30.

The average age at death from cancer is 65.6 years. Two cases were males and four females. The average age at death from heart affection is 68.4. The lung diseases—phthisis, bronchitis, and pneumonia—average 38.3 years. Nine deaths took place from phthisis, compared with 7 the previous year.

Sixty-two cases of notifiable infectious diseases have been notified to me during 1909, as against 41 in 1908. The cases were: Diphtheria, 26; erysipelas, 21; scarlet fever, 12; enteric fever, 3. Death occurred: Diphtheria, 1, which is at the rate of 10.86 per 1,000 deaths, or .14 per 1,000 of the population.

The total number of people receiving in and out relief belonging to this union is 184, or one in 38. In 1908 there were 196, or one in 36. The average for England and Wales is one in 39.

The number of pauper lunatics belonging to the union is 25, or one in 360 (including Withernsea, which is in this union), or 2 per 1,000, as compared with 3.0 in 1908 for the whole East Riding, and 3.42 for England and Wales. For the East Riding the number of pauper lunatics is one in 350.

The rainfall of Patrington for last year was 27.89 inches. The most rain fell in August (5.66), and the driest month was January (0.64). The average rainfall per month is 2.32 inches, compared with 1.64 in 1908.

During the year 220 children have been excluded by special certificates for various complaints from the schools of the districts within this area:—

	Male.	Female.
Chicken pox	30	26
Typhoid fever	1	0
Ringworm	1	1
Measles	63	55
Influenza	11	9
Diphtheria	3	1
Mumps	1	3
Scarlet fever	7	4
Eczema	4	2

The special number of cases excluded from each school, including the unaffected members of the same families, were:—Withernsea, 112; Keyingham, 26; Paul, 36; Welwick, 1; Burton Pidsea, 5; Ottringham, 4; Hollym, 15; Ryehill, 2; Burstock, 17; Spurn Head, 2. Three schools have been closed for infectious diseases, viz., Hollym for measles, Burton Pidsea for diphtheria, and Spurn for measles.

To more effectively cope with school hygiene a number of regulations have been made by Section 13 of the Education Act of 1907, the School Medical Officer obtaining more power over the exclusion of sick children. It aims at co-operation with the Medical Officers of Health. The School Medical Officer can now exclude for (1) To prevent the spread of disease; (2) uncleanly or verminous condition of the scholar; (3) for physical or mental defects, or owing to the state of health. The School Medical Officer must now approve of the closure of the schools: this indicates the desirability of a working arrangement between the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer. The Medical Officer of Health is still responsible for dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease, and he still must take such steps as are consistent with the public interest to prevent the spread of infection. Similarly, suspected cases should continue to be notified by teachers to the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer, for it is the prompt exclusion of first cases which will stave off an epidemic. Briefly, scarlet fever should be excluded until peeling has ended, and fourteen days after the disinfection of the house. Diphtheria contacts should be excluded for at least four weeks after recovery, or until swabs show negative examination. Measles should be excluded 21 days after recovery. Chicken pox the same. Mumps one month. Whooping cough at least six weeks. These rules apply to all children attending school from infected houses, and should also apply to attendance at Sunday schools, churches, chapels, or any public gatherings. Children under the age of five will be excluded from all schools on the first case of diphtheria being notified and confirmed. The outbreak of diphtheria at Burton Pidsea caused unnecessary panic. The origin was distinctly traceable to what is known as carriers from a distance. Diphtheritic infection may remain in the throat of an infected patient for a prolonged period extending up to months.

There has only been one case of anthrax notified by the police during 1909. This was at Hollym. The cleansing of milk cows is one which I am afraid is not receiving the attention it deserves from the persons responsible for the milk supply of this district. It is absolutely of the highest importance that not only should the utensils be kept scrupulously clean, but that the milkers themselves should give special attention to the cleansing of the udders and their own hands. Milk is one of the fluids which bacteria, especially those affecting the alimentary canal, thrive in, and all milk should be strained and boiled before giving it to children. I cannot too strongly impress on the dairy people the supreme importance of cleanliness in every detail connected with the management of this most important article of food.

There are 42 cowsheds registered in the Patrington area. The Inspector has inspected these, and reports on them from time to time. Some of them would do with a little improvement.

During the year a prosecution was undertaken by myself and the Education Department of the County Council in regard to a child attending the Patrington schools whose condition was deplorably filthy. A conviction was obtained against the male and female defendants, who were sentenced to three and four months respectively. This conviction was the first one under the new Children Act in England, and I draw attention to it again because if children are so neglected and verminous as to materially affect their health, the persons having the charge of them can be summarily convicted and sentenced to prison for such offence. The child in the aforementioned case was taken from the parents' custody and sent to a special school, where he will be trained to be a useful citizen. I am sorry to record the fact that your Council, after requesting from me a report on the sanitary condition of houses at Welwick, and after receiving a condemnatory report from me, and a similar confirmatory report from your Sanitary Inspector, neglected the obvious duty

of proceeding at the Sessions for an order to close. One cannot understand an authority serving a person with a notice of unsanitary property, and after the landlord himself acquiesces, and asks the Council to obtain a closing order, dropping the entire business and considering it satisfactorily disposed of. The result has been that the East Riding County Council, owing to the default of the Patrington Rural District Council, had to initiate proceedings and obtain the necessary order for closure at a greater expense than your Council would have been at, and the ultimate cost will fall upon the ratepayers of this district. I trust that the Council will in future, for its own dignity, do its own work, and not have the odium of another body undertaking the work, and charging the Patrington Council with the expense.

There is no isolation hospital within this area at present. During 1909 thirteen nuisances have been complained of, and, in addition, 45 sanitary matters have been inspected and put right.

During the year six well waters were analysed, and one of these was condemned.

There are eleven workshops registered under the Factory and Workshop Act. These have been inspected from time to time, and found in proper order.

All persons under 16 must be certified by the respective factory surgeons before they can be employed even as apprentices to dressmakers. This has rather been more honoured in the breach than in the observance in the past.

I also deeply regret the dilatoriness in proceeding with the flushing of the Patrington drains. I have called attention annually to this neglect for 10 years. The local Sanitary Committee, the Patrington Parish Council, has unanimously passed resolutions requesting your Board to proceed with the work. They have themselves placed a suitable plot of land at your disposal, where water can be obtained, and from which source a satisfactory flushing system could be well and cheaply maintained. It so happens that this year we have had an exceptional amount of rainfall, and the necessity for flushing has not been so apparent, but sooner or later we shall have a dry season, with noxious smells coming from the main drain, and consequent epidemics. It is the Council's duty to attend to this. The drainage system of Patrington is good, although I constantly maintain it should never have been permitted without some form of flushing having been arranged for, and it cannot be satisfactory until this is done. I do most sincerely hope that the Council will remedy this defect, especially as it is the wish of the inhabitants, apart from the greater sanitary reason of protecting the health of the ratepayers. After my earnest request last year, I am surprised that the Council cannot see the danger of so long delaying a much-needed improvement.

Nothing more has been heard of the scheme for supplying the district with water. There should be some systematic analysis of the existing supplies to check contaminated water. The Keyingham drains have not been cleaned out as frequently as they should have been, and I am sorry to say that what I predicted has happened—that an outbreak of diphtheria has been caused, in my opinion, from the open drain on the roadside leading from the inn to the schools. The schools have had to be closed. I ask the Council to seriously consider Keyingham. It is not sufficient to do away with the settling pits, which were all right if they had been attended to properly. The outfall is not at all satisfactory, and should be dealt with as early as possible.

Thirty-five bacteriological examinations have been made of swabs from infectious cases; 19 have been positive and 16 negative. These examinations have been well worth the expense, and are certainly most valuable and necessary from a public health point of view.

The schools of the East Riding have been inspected, some of them in this district by the County Council's Medical Officer; 96.8 have satisfactory clothing and foot gear; 83.6 are satisfactory from the point of nutrition, and 94.9 from a cleanliness standpoint. This is eminently satisfactory. It is to be hoped that the parents will carry out the recommendations of the School Medical Officer in regard to children suffering from curable conditions, and have these attended to at the earliest opportunity.

With the advent of 1910 comes into operation the Housing and Town Planning Act, one of the most valuable measures passed in the interests of the health of the people. A local authority can now make a closing order in the case of insanitary property, and an appeal against this order must be made to the Local Government Board instead of to the Petty Sessional Court. Again, if a landlord lets property to working classes, and does not keep the premises in reasonable repair, and in all respects fit for habitation, the local authority may serve him with a notice to do the necessary work, which they must specify, and if he feels aggrieved he can appeal to the Local Government Board. This fulfils a long-felt want, because there are many premises, not necessarily insanitary, which are still not fit for habitation. These can now be dealt with effectively, and without so cumbersome a proceeding as formerly.

Your Council do not possess any building regulations. If you had such it would prevent people building houses suiting themselves without any regard to sanitary requirements.

I have drawn the attention of the Humber Conservancy Board to the unsatisfactory condition of the water supply of the Trinity Lifeboat Cottages at Spurn. Owing to the quantity of birds alighting at Spurn the water gets contaminated with nitrobenzene matter, and the spray of the sea during a storm is often thrown over the roofs, and so is carried to the tanks. These tanks are not sufficiently often cleaned out, and there exists no arrangement by which the water might be filtered. I have had communications with the Board, but the matter has not yet been satisfactorily dealt with.

A new cemetery has been provided for Withernsea within your Council's area, and this I have certified as a satisfactory site.

The year has been a satisfactory one from the hygienic standpoint, and, as usual, compares very favourably with other districts.—Yours, &c.,

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